

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----251440Z 037357 /41 S
O R 251354Z JAN 77 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5017
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01416

EXDIS

VIPTO 0011

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), PFOR, BE
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MEETING WITH PRIME
MINISTER TINDEMANS

1. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, COOPER, AARON, HARTMAN,
BERGSTEN, AND RENNER MET MORNING JANUARY 24 WITH PRIME
MINISTER TINDEMANS, FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE,
FINANCE MINISTER DE CLERCQ, GRAULS, AND VAN BELLINGHEN.
THE CENTRAL POINTS OF THIS CONVERSATION FOLLOW.

SUMMIT

2. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE SAID THAT U.S. THINKS IT
WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HOLD A SUMMIT MEETING TO DISCUSS
PRESSING ECONOMIC AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES. THE U.S.
WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHICH TOPICS MIGHT BE
MOST USEFULLY DISCUSSED. OUR TENTATIVE VIEW IS THAT
THE SUMMIT COULD BE HELD AT A MUTUALLY-CONVENIENT
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LOCATION SOMETIME AROUND THE TIME OF THE SPRING NATO
MINISTERIAL MEETING. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE STRESSED
THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION PLACES
ON GENUINE AND RECIPROCAL CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES
AND FRIENDS.

3. TINDEMANS SAID THAT BELGIUM FAVORS HOLDING A SUMMIT

MEETING. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD ESTABLISHED EARLY WORKING CONTACTS WITH THE LARGE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, HE HOPED THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT FORGET THE SMALLER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AMONG THEM ARE SOME OF THE STAUNCHEST FRIENDS OF THE U.S. TINDEMANS SAID THAT THE INTERESTS OF BELGIUM AND OTHER SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC MATTERS OFTEN COULD BE REPRESENTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

4. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE SAID THAT THE U.S. IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO CONSULT ALSO WITH THE SMALL COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE EC TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE SUMMIT, BUT THAT WOULD BE UP TO THE EUROPEANS TO WORK OUT HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

5. DE CLERCQ SAID THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE SIGNATORIES OF THE FINANCIAL SAFETY NET HAVE RATIFIED THE AGREEMENT. THE U.S. IS A MAJOR EXCEPTION. HE URGED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY.

6. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND COOPER SAID THAT THE U.S. IS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM. IT IS HIGH ON THE U.S. AGENDA. HOWEVER, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO GO AHEAD WITH THE FINANCIAL SAFETY NET OR TO SUGGEST SOME OTHER MECHANISM.

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7. DE CLERCQ THOUGHT THAT CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ENLARGING THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON BORROWING (GAB) TO INCLUDE THE RICHEST OF THE OPEC COUNTRIES. HE THOUGHT THAT EARLY ACTION IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD PROVIDE THE BEST CHANCE OF ASSOCIATING THESE COUNTRIES WITH GAB ON OUR TERMS.

8. COOPER SAID THAT THE U.S. WAS THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES, BUT THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER TO ENLARGE THE GAB OR TO CREATE A NEW GAB. BERGSTEN INDICATED THAT WE WANTED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH DE CLERCQ ON THIS ISSUE.

9. DE CLERCQ REPLIED THAT IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO CREATE A NEW GAB BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL WEAKNESSES OF SOME OF THE PRESENT MEMBERS. HE SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO VISIT SOME OF THE OPEC COUNTRIES IN MARCH AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO SOUND THEM OUT IF DESIRED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01416

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VIPTO 11

10. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TURNED TO THE PROBLEM OF FUNDING A LARGE MULTILATERAL CONSORTIUM LOAN TO PORTUGAL. HE SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL. COOPER ADDED THAT THE U.S. WAS THINKING OF A FUND FINANCED BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND MANAGED BY THE IMF.

11. TINDEMANS SAID THAT BELGIUM HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THIS PROPOSAL BUT CERTAINLY WAS NOT OPPOSED.

ENERGY

12. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE SAID THAT THE CREATION OF AN ENERGY POLICY WAS HIGH ON THE LIST OF PRIORITIES. MAJOR EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON CONSERVATION OF ENERGY AND SHIFTING OF USE OF COAL. ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WILL NEED TO BE SOLVED. THE U.S. WILL INCREASE COOPERATION WITH IEA. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH ON NUCLEAR, SOLAR AND OTHER ENERGY WOULD BENEFIT ALL.

U.S. EUROPEAN POLICY

13. IN RESPONSE TO TINDEMAN'S QUESTION, THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE U.S. FAVORED THE INTEGRATION OF EUROPE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT. COOPER
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SAID THAT THE U.S. HAD A STRONG INCLINATION TO WORK WITH THE EC BUT THERE WERE AREAS WHERE THE EC WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO SPEAK FOR THE MEMBERS.

NORTH-SOUTH

14. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE SAID THAT THE U.S. WANTS TO PURSUE THIS DIALOGUE AND TO DO SO IN CLOSEST CONSULTATION WITH THE EC AND JAPAN. COOPER SAID THAT THE U.S. PLANS TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LDCS. BERGSTEN ADDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR \$5 BILLION IN AUTHORIZATION FOR MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS.

SALT AND SART

15. VAN ELSLANDE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE SALT II BEFORE OCTOBER AND WHETHER IT WOULD FOLLOW THE VLADIVOSTOK OUTLINE. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE SAID THAT THE U.S. PUTS A HIGH PRIORITY ON CONTROLLING STRATEGIC ARMS. WE WOULD PREFER AN AGREEMENT WITH A LOWER CEILING THAN THE VLADIVOSTOK FORMULA. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE MORE PRACTICAL TO CONCLUDE SALT II ON THE VLADIVOSTOK BASIS AND THEN MOVE ON TO NEGOTIATING A REDUCTION OF THE CEILING IN SALT III, STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTIONS TALKS (SART).

MBFR - NATO

16. VAN ELSLANDE ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON A SATISFACTORY BASIS. THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID THE U.S. WOULD TRY TO FIND A SATISFACTORY FORMULA FOR BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS. ON THE QUESTION OF THE SOVIET BUILD-UP, AARON SAID THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS WORKING ON A NET ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT. WE HOPED TO SHARE THIS KIND OF ANALYSIS WITH OUR ALLIES. THE U.S. IS CONCERNED BUT NOT DISMAYED BY THE INCREASE IN SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY. VAN ELSLANDE DOUBTED THAT THERE COULD BE MOVEMENT IN MBFR AND SALT II HAD BEEN CONCLUDED.

17. VAN ELSLANDE POINTED OUT THAT WESTERN COMMERCIAL CREDITS HELPED THE SOVIETS ALLOCATE RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ARMED FORCES. THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT WE ARE LOOKING CLOSELY AT THE PROBLEM OF COMMERCIAL CREDITS AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE USSR AND THE RELATIONSHIP TO SOVIET MILITARY

EXPENDITURES.

AID TO ZAIRE

18. TINDEMANS SAID THAT MOBUTU WAS WORRIED ABOUT APPEARING TO HAVE TOO CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ASKED THE BELGIANS WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CHANNEL SOME U.S. AID TO ZAIRE THROUGH BELGIUM. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE SAID THAT WE WOULD EXAMINE THIS POSSIBILITY. COOPER ASKED WHETHER THE BELGIANS HAD ANY CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS. TINDEMANS SAID THAT HE WAS MERELY REPORTING A QUESTION RAISED BY MOBUTU.
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